

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Department of the Interior
1849 - C St., NW
Washington, DC 20240

14 September 1999

**Re: Submission of Interim Status Report from the Advisory Committee for the U.S.
Department of the Interior, National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive
(NSLRSDA): FACA Committee File No. 216019**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On October 28, 1998, the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive Advisory Committee (Committee) convened its first meeting under a two-year Charter. The Committee was established, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and other applicable laws, to assist the Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, in coordination with the USGS Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center (EDC) Sioux Falls, SD, in carrying out responsibilities under the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-555). This Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to consult with and seek advice from users and producers of remote sensing data and data products in determining the initial content of, or in upgrading, NSLRSDA's basic data set. The Committee has convened two meetings to date and is pleased to submit, herein, an Interim Status Report on its work. The attached documents are included as a part of the Report:

- Minutes of the first meeting (October 28-30, 1998 - Attachment A),
- Recommendations for the National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive (December 5, 1998 - Attachment B)
- National Land Remote Sensing Data Archive Policy White Paper (January 25, 1999 - Attachment C)
- Minutes of the second meeting (April 21-23, 1999 - Attachment D),
- List of priorities identified for consideration in the next two meetings (Attachment E), and,
- List of citations for laws, regulations, Presidential Directives, and other relevant documents considered by the Committee in the course of its deliberations to date. (Attachment F),

The primary objectives of the Committee are set forth in its enabling Charter (Attachment G), and are designed essentially to:

- assist in defining and accomplishing the NSLRSDA's archiving and access goals to carry out the requirements of the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act and other relevant laws and policies;

- advising the USGS/EDC on priorities of the NSLRSDA's tasks; and,
- providing interdisciplinary guidance and serving as a resource to USGS/EDC on issues of archiving, data management, science, policy, and public-private partnerships.

These objectives relate to the definition, design, development, implementation, and operation of the NSLRSDA. In its advisory capacity, the Committee is responsible for representing the public interest of the United States Government for "...maintain[ing] an archive of land remote sensing for historical, scientific, and technical purposes, including long-term global environmental monitoring; control[ing] the content and scope of the archive; and, assur[ing] the quality, integrity, and continuity of the archive."

The Committee's investigations, briefings, subcommittee work, assessments, deliberations, conclusions, and recommendations undertaken and accomplished in its meetings cover a broad spectrum of issues relating to archiving and accessing remotely sensed data at EDC. The information is presented in this Interim Status report in such a way as to ensure satisfaction of all reasonable public notice standards required for the Committee's work. All meetings were accessible by the public and additional efforts were made by the Committee to solicit views and information from interested and knowledgeable members of the public who are not Committee members, and to have those views and that information brought to bear fully in Committee deliberations.

The Committee's next meeting will be held at EDC from October 20 - 22, 1999. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Respectfully,

Prof. Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz
Co-Chair

Mr. Paul Tessar
Co-Chair

Encs: 7
cc: Dr. Don Lauer, Chief EROS Data Center